were estimated at Rs. 12360 crores, which accounted for 27.1% of the total imports during the same period. In quantity terms; the imports of crude oil and petroleum products were estimated at 31.5 million tonnes.

Defence Spares Supply from Russia

880. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any defence agreement with Russia has been arrived at recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the alternative arrangements being made by the Government to overcome the problem of shortage of spares for the defence equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). With the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the former USSR has ceased to exist. At their Summit meeting held in Alma Ata on the 21st December 1991, the Member States of the CIS guaranteed, in accordance with their constitutional procedures, the fulfilment of international obligations stemming from the Treaties and Agreements of the former USSR. Further, Russia has declared itself to be the "State-continuer". India has recognised Russia as the successor State to the former Soviet Union, subject to the condition that certain outstanding issues such as those relating to the division of international assets and liabilities remain to be settled amongst the Republics of the erstwhile USSR. It would not be in the interest of national security to give details of arrangements that have been or are being worked out in the context of the above framework.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of Housing Finance Corporation Branch at Chitradurga

881. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for opening a branch of Housing Finance Corporation sponsored by Life Insurance Corporation at Chitradurga;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) So far, no such demand appears to have been received by LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LIC HFL). At Present, the Mangalore area office of LIC HFL looks after the applications received from Chitradurga. The number of applications for housing loans received from Chitradurga so far is very small viz only 12.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.